

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, XL

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON CARIBBEAN INITIATIVES

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 26-27. THUS FAR
THE NARROW VIEW HELD BY THE CDB OF ITS OWN MANDATE AND
ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE ANY ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE
OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN HAS BEEN A TROUBLESOME
OBSTACLE TO US AND OTHERS WHO WISH TO CREATE A
COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS
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IN THE CARIBBEAN AS A WHOLE.

2. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CDB WOULD BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO LOBBY REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE VARIOUS CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO
GET THE CDB TO TAKE A BROADER VIEW OF ITS MANDATE AND
FIND WAYS IT CAN OPERATE OUTSIDE THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING

CARIBBEAN, PERHAPS AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF A TRUST FUND. IF THE CDB MEETING DOES APPEAR TO BE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR REACHING KEY PEOPLE AND ULTIMATELY INFLUENCING THE BANK WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL OBSERVER TO THE MEETING. HOWEVER, WE NEED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING THIS DETERMINATION. SPECIFICALLY:

-- ARE THE DELEGATES FROM THE VARIOUS CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO THIS MEETING THEMSELVES LIKELY TO BE INFLUENTIAL WITH THE BANK, OR ARE THEY MORE APT TO BE TECHNICAL PEOPLE WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL INFLUENCE?

-- WOULD THERE BE TIME FOR OUR OBSERVER TO HAVE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS IN THE COURSE OF THE CDB MEETINGS OR IS THE AGENDA NORMALLY SO FULL THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT?

-- ARE THERE OTHER REASONS WHY IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO LOBBY IN INDIVIDUAL CAPITALS RATHER THAN AT THE CDB MEETING IN GUYANA?

3. FOR GUYANA: IS THERE ANY CHANCE THE CDB MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD ON SCHEDULE OR WILL BE HELD ELSEWHERE IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GEORGETOWN?

4. FOR HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: DEPARTMENT IS, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT HAITI AND DR ARE NOT MEMBERS OF CDB BUT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING IF THEY SEND OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS?

5. POSTS SHOULD REPLY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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